

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 27, 32 and 57-59. Claims 1-26 were cancelled in a previous amendment. Claims 29-31 have been cancelled by way of this amendment. Claims 27, 28, 32-59 remain pending in the application. Claims 35-56 stand allowed.

The Examiner rejected claims 57-59 under 35 USC 112 as they depended on cancelled claim 23. Applicant has amended these claims so that they properly depend from claim 56. Applicant submits that these claims now depend from a pending claim, and requests that the rejection under 35 USC 112 be withdrawn. Applicant notes that the Examiner has stated that claim 56 is allowed, and respectfully submits that as claims 57-59 depend on an allowed base claim, that they are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 27-30 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,411,808 in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,027,831 under 35 USC 103(a). The Examiner indicated that claim 31 would be considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended independent claim 27 to include the matter of claim 31 and all intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 27 now includes the matter of claim 31, and as such is patentable in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,808 and U.S. Patent No. 7,027,831, and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicant has cancelled claims 29-31 and has incorporated their subject matter into claim 27.

Applicant submits that claims 28 and 32-34 all depend, either directly or indirectly from claim 27, and as such include all the limitations of claim 27. Applicant respectfully reiterates the argument presented above with respect to claim 27, and applies it to claims 28 and 32-34. Applicant respectfully requests that the objections and rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

The Examiner indicated that claims 35-56 were allowed and no amendment has been made to these claims.

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Applicant submits that in view of these amendments, the application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits action to that end.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, and credit any over payments to Deposit Account No. 501593, in the name of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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